

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 10-11, 13-15, 21, and 28 and canceled claim 25, without prejudice. As a result, claims 1-3, 7-8, 10-11, 13-17, 20-21, 23-24, 26, and 28-29 remain pending in this application. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the objections and rejections and reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims, or claims that are potentially broader in scope, in the current and/or a related patent application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Office's indication of allowable subject matter in claim 23. By this response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 10-11, 13-15, 21, and 28 to include the same laser pulse duration as included in claim 23. As a result, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims, and the claims that depend therefrom, are also allowable.

Applicants submit that each of the pending claims is patentable for one or more additional unique features. To this extent, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's interpretation of the claimed subject matter or the references used in rejecting the claimed subject matter. Additionally, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Office's combinations and modifications of the various references or the motives cited for such combinations and modifications. These features and the appropriateness of the Office's combinations and modifications have not been separately addressed herein for brevity. However, Applicants reserve the right to present such arguments in a later response should one be necessary and/or in a related patent application, either of which may seek to obtain protection for claims of a potentially broader scope.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/John LaBatt/

John W. LaBatt, Reg. No. 48,301
Hoffman Warnick LLC
75 State Street, 14th Floor
Albany, NY 12207
518-449-0044 (Voice)
518-449-0047 (Facsimile)

Dated: 22 June 2009